

1 **CLAIMS**

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3 1. A computer-implemented method for hashing an image, comprising:

4 receiving an image; and

5 deriving a single hash value representative of the image such that images

6 that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent

7 of one another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical

8 hash values.

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10 2. A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further

11 comprising storing the hash value in association with the image.

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13 3. A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further

14 comprising indexing the image using the hash value.

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16 4. A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further

17 comprising comparing the hash value with another hash value derived from

18 another image.

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1 5. A computer-implemented method comprising:

2 receiving an image;

3 deriving a hash value representative of the image such that images that are
4 visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately independent of one
5 another and images that are different but visually similar result in identical hash
6 values; and

7 watermarking the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a
8 watermarked image.

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10 6. A computer-implemented hashing method, comprising:

11 computing a single hash value representative of a digital image such that
12 images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately
13 independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar result
14 in identical hash values; and

15 storing the hash value in relationship with the digital image.

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17 7. A computer-implemented hashing method, comprising:

18 computing a hash value representative of a digital image; and

19 watermarking the digital image with a watermark derived, in part, using the
20 hash value.

1 **8.** A system for processing digital images, comprising:
2 an image hashing unit to compute a single hash value representative of a
3 digital image such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that
4 are approximately independent of one another and images that are different but
5 visually similar result in identical hash values; and
6 a storage to hold the hash value.

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8 **9.** A system for processing digital images as recited in claim 8, further
9 comprising:
10 a watermark encoder to watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash
11 value to produce a watermarked image.

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13 **10.** A system for processing digital images as recited in claim 8, further
14 comprising:
15 an image comparison module to compare the hash value representative of
16 the image with a second hash value representative of a second image to determine
17 whether the images are visually distinct or visually similar.

1 **11.** A system for processing digital images, comprising:
2 an image hashing unit to compute a hash value representative of a digital
3 image such that images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are
4 approximately independent of one another and images that are different but
5 visually similar result in identical hash values; and
6 a watermark encoder to watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash
7 value to produce a watermarked image.

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9 **12.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions, which when executed on a processor, direct a computer to:
11 compute a single hash value representative of a digital image such that
12 images that are visually distinct result in hash values that are approximately
13 independent of one another and images that are different but visually similar
14 result in identical hash values; and
15 store the hash value in relationship with the digital image.

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17 **13.** A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further
18 comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a
19 processor, direct a computer to:
20 index the digital image using the hash value.

1 14. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further
2 comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a
3 processor, direct a computer to:

4 watermark the digital image using, in part, the hash value to produce a
5 watermarked image.

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7 15. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, further
8 comprising computer-executable instructions, which when executed on a
9 processor, direct a computer to:

10 compare the hash value with another hash value representative of another
11 image.